

**November 25, 2009**

**WASHINGTON, DC** - Today, U.S. Rep. Michael Arcuri (NY-24) and U.S. Rep. Eric Massa (NY-29) announced that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has denied an appeal made by Seneca Falls Power Company (SFPC) after a previous ruling found the company responsible for draining an excessive amount of water from Seneca Lake and causing a drop in the water level of the lake.

"I am glad that FERC has continued to hold the Seneca Falls Power Company responsible for overstepping the boundaries set up to protect the valuable and precious natural resources at Seneca Lake," **Arcuri said**. "Seneca Lake serves many purposes in the region, including recreation and economic development, and we need to ensure that the lake is protected for years to come."

"It's critical that we work to protect our natural resources like Seneca Lake," **said Massa**. "The people demanded that we work together to address this situation and today we can celebrate a victory to the next generation of Western New Yorkers. I'd like to thank my good friend Rep. Arcuri for joining me in this effort."

Initially, residents around Seneca Lake voiced their concerns to Arcuri and Massa regarding lower than normal water levels in the lake. FERC was alerted of this concern and conducted an investigation in April 2009. On July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009, FERC issued a compliance order to the SFPC that determined the company had been draining more water than they were allowed from Seneca Lake to operate their facility. SFPC appealed the ruling and on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009, FERC denied the appeal.

Arcuri and Massa worked to ensure that the issue was brought to the attention of FERC and continued to follow up with the Commission in the months leading up to the denied appeal.

FERC requires that the daily fluctuation of Seneca Lake should not exceed 0.1 foot from the daily target elevation for each lake set by the New York State Thruway Authority (NYSTA). According to FERC, Seneca Lake had dropped below the daily target elevation due to the SFPC drawing too much water for their power plant operation.

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